(b) if so, what is the total export earnings for the year 1991-92;

(c) whether it is fact that there are plans to have foreign tie-ups in the leather industry; and

(d) if so, which are the countries interested for foreign tie-ups and on what conditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of exports and hence foreign exchange earned of leather and leather products during 1991-92 was as follows:

	(Export) Rs. Crores;
Europe	1815.67
U.S.A.	433.10
Other countries	965.94
Total	3214.71

(Source: CLE, Madras)

(c) and (d) The Council for Leather Exports, Madras has a programme for promoting joint ventures in India with assistance from UNDP for leather products with suitable companies in USA, Germany, Australia and South Korea, which is likely to be implemented during the current year. Suitable companies in these countries which are interested in setting up production base in India, would be identified and introduced to selected firms in India for establishing one-to-one contact

Competition faced by Indian construction companies abroad

4204. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Construction Companies are being hampered to compete in global construction business and the construction export due to redtapism at Government level;

(b) whether the Indian Construction Companies have made any representation thereon to Government; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to eliminate the redtapism in the approval of construction project abroad and liberalise procedures to make Indian Construction exports competitive?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to provide single window clearance to project exporters from India, a working Group comprising representatives from Reserve Bank of India, Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation, EXIM Bank, sponsoring Banks, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs under the auspices of EXIM Bank of India considers for approval, project export bids involving deferred payment and/or issue of guarantees where value of export bid exceeds Rs. 20 crores. The above mechanism has been evolved specially with a view to avoid delay in clearing the proposals.

Indian Supply Service

4205. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total strength of the Indian Supply Service as on 31st July, 1992;

(b) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred annually on their emoluments; and

(c) which is the highest office which the members of this service normally reach during their career?